Socialist Worker

LAND AND FREEDOM
REVOLUTION AGAINST FASCISM

Ken Loaches' brilliant new film about the Spanish Revolution is not just about the past but has enormous relevance for today.

With the alarming growth of fascist organisations , such as the Front Nationale in France and the National alliance in Italy, over recent years, it is vital to learn the lessons of the past.

Loaches' film shows how the working class were the best and most consistent fighters against fascism in Spain because they were also fighting for a different kind of society, one that can satisfy the needs of all..

PUBLIC MEETING
Land and Freedom
THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR:
Revolution against fascism

Wednesday Oct 25th, 8pm.
North Star Hotel, Amiens Street
Speaker : Kevin Wingfield

The areas where the most determined resistance against the fascists took place were those where the workers and peasants had taken control of the factories and the land.

However, it was clear that Stalin had a major part to play in the defeat of the revolution. He ordered the communist party to join with sections of the middle class opposed to fascism.

This was because Stalin was more concerned about Russia's foreign policy interests than about socialism. The most important thing to him was to consolidate his own brutal regime, rather than fight with workers in other countries. He wanted to appease Britain and France who were terrified by the idea of socialist revolution in Spain.

The communists forced the workers and peasants to hand back the land, factories and leadership of the struggle to unreliable allies.

With the status quo restored, the working class lost any stake in the battle against the fascists. Not surprisingly with the workers and peasants demoralised and betrayed, Franco's victory was assured.

Those like Trotsky and the spanish POUM, committed to real socialism, were denounced as fascist collaborators and butchered by the Stalinists.

In 1989, after the collapse of the stalinist regimes we were told there was no alternative to capitalism. Loaches' film shows that this was no true. The film shows that there was always another tradition of real socialism from below, opposed both to western capitalism and the state capitalist tyrannies of Eastern Europe.

The lessons from this film are great. Today, as in the 1930's, the rise of fascism is being fed by the growing crisis of capitalism that produces unemployment, poverty and anger. Desperate governments and far right organisations try and direct peoples anger against immigrants, other nationalities and minority groups. The same dangers exist, and we must be aware of them.

It is only by fighting for a society where ordinary people control their own lives that we can beat the fascists and prevent a repeat of the 1930's.

The Socialist Workers Party is building an organisation based on the real ideas of socialism from below that inspired the peasants and workers to fight. Join The SWP.

Join the Socialists

Name _____ Address _____

_____ Phone _____

Return to SWP, PO Box 1648, D8. Phone 8722682